

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 66, 68-69, 72-73, 75-76, 78-79, 82-83, 86, 94-97 and 99-101 will be pending. Claims 66, 69, 73, 75, 76, 78, 79, 82, 83, 86, 94-97 and 99-101 are amended and claim 98 is cancelled.

Claims 66, 68-69, 72-73, 75-76, 78-79, 82-83, 86 and 94-101 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for lack of written description support. It is respectfully submitted that amended claims 66, 69, 73, 75, 76, 78, 79, 82, 83, 86, 94-97 and 99-101 satisfy the written description requirement as they recite the chemical transformation occurring in each reaction step. Because a person skilled in the art would know how to carry out the specific chemical transformations (e.g., epoxidize, eliminate a leaving group, esterify, hydrolyze, etc.) recited in the claims from the specification and from knowledge in the art, the § 112 written description requirement is satisfied.

Further, claims 66, 68-69, 72-73, 75-76, 78-79, 82-83, 86 and 94-101 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the definiteness requirement. Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 66, 69, 73, 75, 76, 78, 79, 82, 83, 86, 94-97 and 99-101 are definite. For example, claim 66 is amended to require "epoxidizing" a compound of formula II to form a compound of formula I. A person of ordinary skill would understand what is meant by "epoxidizing" and would further understand which reactions qualify as "epoxidizing" and which do not. The same principle applies with respect to the other specific terms that have now been inserted in the claims in lieu of "converting." Moreover, from the specification and knowledge generally available to the art, those skilled in the art know the universe of reagents necessary to effect each of the chemical transformations now particularly specified in the claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are definite.

In addition, the claim amendments are supported in the specification, for example, claims 66, 94 and 101 are supported at paragraphs 276 and 289-290 of

the specification. Support for amendments to claims 66, 95 and 101 can be found, for example, at paragraphs 260, 264 and 270 of the specification. Support for amendments to claims 69, 96 and 101 can be found, for example, at paragraph 249 of the specification. Support for amendments to claims 73, 97 and 101 can be found, for example, at paragraph 236 of the specification. Support for amendments to claims 76 and 101 can be found, for example, at paragraph 228 of the specification and in original claim 14. Support for amendments to claims 79, 99 and 101 can be found, for example, at paragraph 220 of the specification. Support for amendments to claims 83, 100 and 101 can be found, for example, at paragraph 178 of the specification.

Along with the amendments described above, the chemical structures of formulae VI and VII were corrected to conform to the specification in claims 73, 75, 76, 78, 82, 86 and 101.

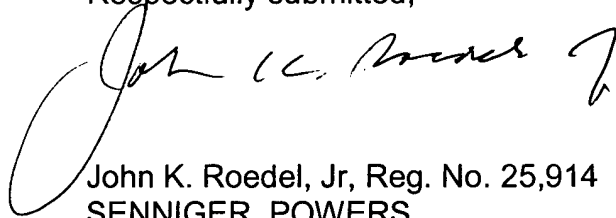
The instant amendments have been made to meet the Examiner's grounds of rejection and expedite prosecution of this application. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as previously pending satisfy the statutory requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, and further respectfully reserve the right to pursue these claims in a continuation or divisional application. However, in view of the instant amendments, the merits of these claims are no longer at issue in this application.

CONCLUSION

Favorable consideration and early allowance of all pending claims is requested.

If there are any additional charges in this matter, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John K. Roedel, Jr.", with a large, stylized initial "J" and "R".

John K. Roedel, Jr, Reg. No. 25,914
SENNIGER, POWERS
One Metropolitan Square, 16th Floor
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
(314) 231-5400

JKR/JSH/dep